

**CONFIDENTIAL**DCI  
INCOMING

02/ /

30 FRP: .2, .4, .6, .8

IMMEDIATE

ADV EUR, LA 1440Z

STATE

25X1

82 8370044

SCO

PAGE 001

NC 8370044

TOR: 081324Z APR 82

OO RUEAIIB

ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH

UTS3235

OO RUEHC

DE RUEHLD #7770 0981308

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

O 081308Z APR 82

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8839

INFO RUFHLL/NATO COLLECTIVE

RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1394

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07770

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 4/8/12 (STREATOR, E.J.) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, UK, AR, US

SUBJECT: FALKLANDS DISPUTE: BRITISH POLITICAL MOOD

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE BRITISH POLITICAL SCENE HAS STEADIED, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, FOLLOWING THE TURBULENCE AFTER THE INVASION.

3. THE TONE OF THE APRIL 7 COMMONS DEBATE WAS NOTABLY MORE SUBDUED THAN THAT OF EVEN THE DAY BEFORE. FRANCIS PYM, A RESPECTED AND WELL-LIKED FIGURE, GOT GOOD MARKS FOR HIS DEBUT IN THE HOUSE AS FOREIGN SECRETARY. OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE EASY ON HIM AND TURNED THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD PINNING RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PRIME MINISTER. BUT EVEN AS THE GOVERNMENT'S "MISTAKES" WERE REHASHED, MP'S SPECULATED INCREASINGLY ABOUT THE DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY TASKS AHEAD.

4. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE "NAVAL BLOCKADE" OF THE FALKLANDS AND THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HAS FURTHER SHIFTED ATTENTION IN THAT DIRECTION. DOMESTICALLY, THE BLOCKADE HAS SATISFIED THE TORY RIGHT. WORD OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS BROADLY WELCOMED, ALTHOUGH LABOR CONTACTS SEE IT, IN PART, AS A U.S. EFFORT TO SAVE MARGARET THATCHER.

5. SHE IS SAFE FOR THE MOMENT. BUT ASIDE FROM PYM, WHO COULD REPLACE HER IF SHE STUMBLES, HER NEW MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS ARE GENERALLY REGARDED AS UNINSPIRED LOYALISTS. THERE IS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SHE CHOSE FIRM SUPPORTERS AND DID NOT BROADEN THE GOVERNMENT'S BASE IN THE CRISIS. BUT THAT IS VERY MUCH HER WAY.

STREATOR

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed.

**CONFIDENTIAL**